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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/651,825	08/29/2003	Kuo-Cheng Lin	Q1120	9382
34335	7590	12/15/2004	EXAMINER	
LAW OFFICES OF DAVID PAI 1001 FOURTH AVENUE, SUITE 3200 SEATTLE, WA 98154			WHITE, DWAYNE J	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3745	

DATE MAILED: 12/15/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/651,825	LIN ET AL.
Examiner	Art Unit	
Dwayne J White	3745	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 29 August 2003.

2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-19 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1-19 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) All b) Some * c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter, which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claim 8 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Particularly, claim 8 does not disclose any coupling means or materials that would constitute a limitation in the claim language.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless -

- (b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.
- (e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 1, 6, 8, 10, 13-15 and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Horng (5,245,236). Horng discloses a fan housing assembly comprising a fan frame mounting base comprising a flange 4 and a through hole formed in a central location of the flange; and a metal bushing 3 coupled to the mounting base (Column 2, lines 48-52) wherein the bushing and the mounting base are formed separately.

Claims 1, 7, and 15-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Huang (6,421,239). Huang discloses a fan housing assembly comprising a metal mounting base 62, a bushing 702 coupled to the mounting base, wherein the mounting base and the bushing are separately formed with predetermined material. The mounting base is a frame of a computer that incorporates a fan assembly 70 and is on a sidewall of said device.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 2-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Horng in view of Van Buren, Jr. (3,376,057). Horng discloses all of the claimed subject matter, including the mounting base being made of plastic (column 1, lines 28-34), except for the bushing being made of engineering plastic or more specifically a polyester plastic.

Van Buren, Jr. teaches a bushing for mounting a fan wherein the bushing is manufactured from engineering plastic. Since both Horng and Van Buren, Jr. disclose fan assemblies having bushings, it would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to modify the bushing of Horng, with the teaches of Van Buren, Jr., by providing a plastic bushing for the purpose of reducing the weight of the assembly.

Further, Since applicant has not disclosed that having the bushing made from a polyester plastic solves any stated problem or is for any particular purpose above the fact that there are

quality requirements and it appears that bushing of Horng as modified by Van Buren, Jr. would perform equally well with the same material as claimed by applicant, it would have been an obvious matter of design choice to further modify the bushing of Horng as modified by Van Buren Jr. by utilizing the materials as claimed for the purpose of improving quality.

Claims 9, 11 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Horng. Horng discloses all of the claimed subject matter except the bushing being coupled by ultrasonic welding, screwing, or by adhesion.

An engineer in the art of fan housing assemblies normally uses an appropriate coupling means to connect a bushing to a mounting base. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to modify the apparatus of Horng by using any one of the claimed coupling means as an engineering expedient because all of the coupling means are suitable for coupling a bushing to a mounting base.

Claim 18 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Horng in view of Chang (6,244,818). Huang discloses all of the claimed subject matter except for the mounting base being a fan guard.

Chang teaches a fan housing assembly wherein the mounting base for the fan is a fan guard. Since both Horng and Chang disclose heat dissipating fan housing assemblies and it is well known that heat dissipating fans have fan guards to protect the fan blades, it would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to modify the mounting base of Horng, with the teachings of Chang, by providing a fan guard for the purpose of protecting the fan blades.

CONCLUSION

Contact Information

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Dwayne J White whose telephone number is (571) 272-4825. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:30 am to 5 pm T-F and alternate Mondays.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Edward Look can be reached on (571) 272-4820. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Dwayne J. White
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Patent Examiner
Art Unit 3745

DJW

Edward K. Look
EDWARD K. LOOK
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
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12/13/04